

Interim Decision #2009

MATTER OF REYES

In Visa Petition Proceedings

A-17859880

Decided by District Director September 26, 1969

Affirmed by Regional Commissioner October 28, 1969

Petitioner/beneficiary, who has a bachelor's degree, with a major in social work, qualifies on the basis thereof as a member of the professions as a social worker within the meaning of sections 101(a)(32) and 203(a)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended. [*Matter of Cruz*, Int. Dec. No. 1920, overruled.]

BEFORE THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

The petitioner, a 30 year old native and citizen of The Philippines, seeks third preference status as a professional social worker. The petition was denied June 6, 1969, in the light of *Matter of Cruz*, Int. Dec. No. 1920, as the petitioner lacks a master's degree. On appeal the matter was remanded by the Regional Commissioner for further consideration.

The petitioner possesses a Bachelor of Arts degree issued March 22, 1960 by the Philippine Women's University. The Office of Education, United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare has reviewed a transcript of her studies and found the petitioner's degree is the equivalent of a Bachelor of Arts degree, with a major in Social Work, issued by an accredited college in the United States.

The Department of Labor has issued a labor certification for "entry level" in Social and Welfare Work, following review of the petitioner's statement of qualifications, Form ES-575A and supporting documents consisting of certified copies of the petitioner's college degree and transcript of studies. The petitioner has been employed as a social worker since 1968 by the Department of Social Welfare, Manila, Philippines.

The issue is whether possession of a Bachelor's degree, with a major in Social Work, qualifies the holder, a social worker, as a